Amethyst Classroom
Back to School Night!

Ms. Rachel, Ms. Alana, and Ms. Mckenzie
Grades 1/2/3 (6-9)

2019-2020

"The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one's self."
-Maria Montessori

For all school and class news visit http://eg.cacmp.org
Welcome Parents!

I am very excited to be your child's Lead Teacher this year in the Amethyst classroom. This will be my fifth year teaching in the Amethyst classroom. I have been with CMP for 6 years, my first year in the roles of Teacher Assistant, Club M staff, and after school tutor and the last four years as a Lead Teacher.

My educational background consists of a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Teaching English to Students of Other Languages. Throughout college I was an In-home Tutor for children with Autism. I completed the Teacher Credential Program at Sacramento State University, and have cleared my credential through the BTSA program. I have my AMS Montessori Elementary 1 Credential.

My husband Michael and I live in Sacramento with our 2-year-old and 2 month old daughters. We enjoy bike riding and spending time with our extended families.

I am very enthusiastic for this school year at California Montessori Project and all its successes.

Sincerely,
Ms. Rachel

Hello Families,

My name is Ms. Mckenzie, I am so excited to be your T.A. in the Amethyst classroom this school year. I am lucky enough to have been at CMP for the last 2 years. I look forward to sharing my experience and love of Montessori with you and your child. I have worked with children for over a decade in many different learning environments. I have a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with an emphasis on behavior.

In my off time I am a wife and mother of three children. I am also a proud CMP parent, as my two oldest children attend the Bradshaw site. We love to go hiking and to take weekend getaways.

Warmest Regards,
Ms. Mckenzie

Hello Parents/ Guardians!

My name is Ms. Alana and I am looking forward to working with your children for the first three months of school. This is my sixth year at California Montessori Project. I have been a T.A. and now a permanent Substitute or Teacher on Special Assignment.
I have my Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Sacramento State and my Masters of Arts in Education from Grand Canyon University. I also have my Teaching Credential from Grand Canyon University which I had transferred to a California Teaching Credential.

I have a 14 month old son named Reese. My husband and I enjoy taking him to different places and just spending time with him.

Sincerely,
Ms. Alana

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**Amethyst Classroom**

**Daily Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:05</td>
<td>Door Opens (You may stay to read quietly with your child until 8:15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15-8:30</td>
<td>Morning Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30-11:15</td>
<td>Worktime (students may choose when eat their snack during this time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15-11:45</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45-12:15</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15-1:15</td>
<td>Writing/Reading Enrichment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-2:15</td>
<td>Cultural Rotation*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15-2:30</td>
<td>Care of Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-2:45</td>
<td>Closing Circle, All About Me Bags, Birthday Circles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cultural Rotation

Mr. Erin: History  Ms. Doray: Geography  Ms. Rachel: Botany  Ms. Judith: Zoology

- It is important to note that as the children are adjusting to school, the daily schedule will continue to be adjusted. Our goal is to follow the above schedule once we have completed our normalization process (approx. 8 weeks from the start of school).
- Schedules will vary depending on assemblies.
- P.E. is an important part of our curriculum. It is necessary for your child to be prepared with good tennis shoes, and appropriate dress code attire for being active along with a full water bottle.

**Snack/Lunch**

Snack and lunch are the student's responsibility. Students will be able to have snack from 9:00am-11:30am when there is an open seat at the snack table. We will have group snack on Fridays as a whole class. Please sign up on our volunteer calendar to bring in snack for the entire class. A healthy snack is especially important along with their full reusable water bottle. We ask that children choose a healthy morning snack; in lieu of chips, fruit snacks, cookies, and other sweets, we will ask them to choose fresh fruit, veggies, yogurt, cheese, hard boiled eggs, as well as other ideas shared in class (please be mindful if there are food allergies in class).
Lunch will be at 11:45 am each day. In an attempt to help children develop good personal habits, we will be discussing nutrition with the students and how it relates to our growth and performance. One tenant of the Montessori philosophy is creating a prepared environment, which includes a child’s “inner environment”. We strongly discourage the addition of high sugar content items in lunches. This type of food can give a child a burst of energy and shortly thereafter, an even greater low, eating healthier foods will keep their energy level even throughout the day and a greater ability for longer focus. Candy, gum, and caffeinated drinks are not allowed at school. In addition, we strongly discourage items such as Lunchables as they are full of calories, sugars, and preservatives. The extra packaging on these items also creates a great deal of trash in our classrooms and playground, which contradicts our global awareness education.

Our classroom has a microwave for warm ups, but the time for warming up food is not to exceed 1 minute, thus not to cut into the students eating time.

**Attendance**

We will begin class at 8:15 am each morning. It is our policy to begin promptly at 8:15am; therefore, we will be using our computer clocks to take accurate attendance. Please check your clocks to match ours.

Our classroom door will be opened at 8:05am and closed at 8:15pm. This will provide a signal to you and your student if they need to get a tardy pass while they are near the office before coming to class.

Please communicate with us and the office regarding planned absences.

*Please note that Free Dress is available on Friday to student whom met the dress code expectations all week and had perfect attendance all week. Students arriving in free dress that have not met the expectations will be asked to change into dress code attire.*

**Drop Off/Pick Up**

The classroom door opens at 8:05am each day. If you arrive prior to that time please either wait on the black top with your child or please check them in with Club M.

For picking up your child at the end of the day, please wait for our door to open at 2:45pm. If you arrive prior to that time, please wait on the blacktop. If another person needs to pick up your child, please turn in a Student Pick Up Authorization Form.

Students participating in Club M will be taken to the sign in area at 3:00pm. Any students present at 3:00pm will be taken to the office.

As a reminder, the campus is closed until 6:00pm. A great alternative on where to take your family until your other children are dismissed is Jesse Baker Park across the way.

**Classwork**

Students will either have a weekly or daily classroom work plan. This work plan may vary for each child and each grade level. Work plans will be sent home at the end of the week. Work plans will reflect student's completed work. You are welcome to check your students work plan daily upon drop off or pick up, but it is to stay in the classroom until we send it home at the end of the week.
Library
The students will be able to check out 2 books per week throughout the school year. Our library days are on Wednesdays. Books checked out will be due back to school the following Mondays. Students may keep books checked out up to two weeks before having to return them.

Homework
Homework consists of Reading and Practical Life. The Homework Check off sheet will be sent out in your student’s Communication Folder on Fridays and is to return by the following Thursday.

School-Wide News
School wide news will be sent home Thursday containing any parent specific announcements. Otherwise, everything will be available on the website and it will be important that you go to the school page to get the information you need.

Parent Teacher Conferences
October 18th-20th and March 21st-23rd
All conference sign-ups will be online. The sign-ups will have an opening day/time and a closing day/time. The link will be provided on our class webpage, class newsletter and classroom sign. If there is a conflict with schedules, please let Ms. Rachel know via email so we can accommodate as best we can.

Contacting Ms. Rachel
The best way to contact Ms. Rachel is via email at rwilliams@cacmp.org or through Parent Square. If you would like to meet in person, please schedule a meeting, either before 8:05am or after 3:00pm on school days. Drop off and pick up times are busy important times for us to be with the students, so that their days can start and end with a feeling of comfort and safety, if you have something pressing to share with us during these times we ask that you please leave a message with the office staff and they will get it to us in a timely and appropriate manner.

Birthdays
On your child’s birthday, or as close as possible, we will have a “Birthday Circle”. Students will walk around the “Sun”, holding the “Earth”, one time to represent one year of his/her life. Each time the child completes one circle, the parents, child, and/or teacher will discuss one thing the child learned at that age. We encourage you to send in photographs from each year of your child’s life. Your family is also invited to participate in this celebration.

Students’ with Birthdays that fall during the summer months will be celebrated all together on June 11th. We will have a morning birthday circle followed by the days’ activities, as this will be our Pajamas, movies, and games day.
All About Me Bag

Each child will have one week this year to share his/her own “All About Me Bag”. This is an opportunity for the students to share a little about themselves and practice speaking in front of the group. For the first two weeks of school, Ms. Rachel and Ms. McKenzie will model the “All About Me Bag”. Students are given the opportunity to:

Bring in five (5) items that are special on the Monday of his/her week. The Friday before your students’ week they will receive an “All About Me Bag” in their Communication Folder. The bag will include instructions to fill it with 5 things that they can use to tell the class about themselves (only 5 things, no more, no less). All the objects must fit in the provided paper bag. They may decorate the bag if they wish!

Book Orders

Our classroom participates in the Scholastic Book Club. We accept online orders as this makes for quick turnaround. Our online code is N8X72. We will send home the catalogs throughout the year with the due dates for each one; however, you are welcome to order online at anytime. This is a wonderful opportunity to spike reading interest in your child and a great way to help raise funds for our classroom library.

Field Trips

Our class is fortunate to be attending fun and enriching off site field trips this upcoming school year and even more on site field trips.

In order for our field trips to be successful, we need many parent volunteers to help with the driving and chaperoning. You MUST have:

1. Cleared Livescan
2. Cleared TB Test
3. Copy of your Driver’s License
4. Copy of current car registration (the car that will be driving on the field trip)
5. Cleared DMV record (10 year record)
6. 7 Habits Training Course
7. Insurance declaration page showing a minimum coverage of $300,000/$100,000

*Chaperones need items 1, 2, and 6 only.
*Please note that if you sign up to drive or chaperone on the field trip form, you need to be cleared prior to the day you turn in the permission slip.

All field trip items need to be turned in on time.

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<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fog Willow Farms</td>
<td>October 25, 2019</td>
<td>Wilton, Ca</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Street Theater</td>
<td>December 19, 2019</td>
<td>Downtown Sacramento</td>
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Parent Hours

The calculation for parent hours is as follows:

• Attending a Parent Event 1 parent hour
• Driving students on an event 1 additional parent hour on top of time spent
• Volunteering your time Amount of time spent volunteering

Thank you for donating your time and supplies to our class; without your continuous support, we would not be able to complete all the special projects and activities we do in the Amethyst class!

Classroom Volunteers

When the normalization process is complete (approx. 8 weeks from the start of school), we will welcome parent volunteers into our classroom. Parents will be asked to help students with the computers, special projects, spelling, or reading groups. Please make sure you’ve completed Livescan, TB Test, and 7 Habits Training Course.

Classroom Parent

This year, we are asking for a parent to volunteer as our Classroom Parent. Possible tasks of the Classroom Parent include:

• Contacting parents in our classroom via email to help volunteer with school wide events
• Helping to communicate information from the Parent-Teacher Fundraising Committee (PTFC) regarding upcoming school wide events
• Coordinating parent volunteers and/or donations for classroom events
• Helping with classroom projects (i.e. Fun Run Booth, auction baskets, etc.)

Toys, Phones, and Games

Students are not bring toys, phones, or games to the classroom from home. They are a distraction during work time and often become lost or broken. Toys and games that are allowed at school are donated communal sand and playground toys or games that the students can use at recess.

Medications

We understand the importance of medication. To help us meet the needs of children that use medication, please see the office. Tylenol, aspirins, etc. also require a doctor’s signature and need to be registered with the office.